THE

MYSORE GAZETTE.

Published by Authority.

BANGALORE, SATURDAY, AUGUST 14, 1886.

Separate paging is given to this Part in order that it may be filed as a separate compilation.

PART IV.

Official Papers.

REPORT ON SILO OPERATIONS, HUNSUR, 1885—86.

Nine silos were filled at Hunsur in 1885; a statement showing the measurements, contents, dates of filling, cost per ton and other particulars is appended. A few observations on the operations conducted may prove of use.

Silo No. 1—dimensions 32′×12′×8′—was filled in November 1884 as per report for that year (Silo No. 3 of 1884); the silo was opened on the 31st October 1885 and a small quantity taken out, the smell was strong but not offensive and the silage which was moist and of good color was eaten readily by the cattle; as it is desired to test the length of time for which silage may be kept, the silo has not again been opened.

Silo No. 2—dimensions 32′×12′×8′—was filled in September 1885 with green cholam, not yet opened.

Silo No. 3—dimensions 32′×12′×9′—was filled in October 1885 with karada grass, not yet

—dimensions 32′×12′×8′—filled in November 1885; 2′ of hay and 2′ of green grass lo on the first day, the hay being at the bottom, on the third day the temperature had F. when another 3′ of green grass was put in, on the fourth day the temperature was 3′ of green grass was put in, on the sixth day the temperature was 124° F. when the he top and covered.

cut in the morning and laid in small heaps until about 2 P. M., when it was put rature never exceeded 124° F.

the silage was of a bright brown color, moist and the smell very much resembling grass had sunk down 2½′ and weighed 40 lbs. per cubic fo. Issued to working tle.

Silo No. 5—dimensions 32′ × 12′ × 7′—was filled in November 1885, with the same kind of grass as No. 4, freshly cut and wet with dew; 5′ of green grass was put in each day, the temperature rose to 133° F. On opening, the silage had a strong and offensive smell, very moist, and of a dark-brown color, but was eaten by cattle as readily as the contents of No 4; the grass had sunk down 2½′ and weighed 45 lbs. per cubic foot; issued to working bullocks and sick cattle.

Silo No. 6—6′ diam. 9′ deep, small experimental silo filled with gemjain grass, a long tough grass opened on the 28th June 1886, cattle refused to eat it. This grass is not eaten by cattle even when growing green.

Silo No. 7.—6′ diam. 8′ deep.

Same as No. 6.

Silo No. 8—dimensions 32′ × 12′ × 8′—was filled in October 1885 in 2 days, no temperature or other observations taken, contents course jungle grasses; when opened, found good and eaten readily by cattle, grass had sunk down 3′ below the top of silo; weight 43 lbs. per cubic foot; issued to steers and home-herd cows and calves.

Silo No. 9—dimensions 42′ × 9′ × 10′—same as No. 8. Grass had sunk down 2½′; weight 45 lbs. per cubic foot, issued to steers and home-herd cows and calves.

Silo No. 10—dimensions 42′ × 9′ × 10′—was filled in December 1885, with course grass from the bed of a tank. When opened, it was found that the grass had sunk down 3′ and weighed 43 lbs. per cubic foot, the silage had a very offensive smell, but was eaten by the cattle readily; about a foot from the bottom the silage was mouldy and rotten.

The whole of the silos were trodden down by elephant except Nos. 6 and 7 and were then covered with the excavated earth; the average weight of pressure per square foot was from 210 to 244 lbs. The cattle fed on silage improved very much in condition especially the young steers which were very low but are now equal to what they are at any time during the year; the improvement may, however, be partly attributed to a few showers of rain which fell in May and brought up the young grass in the kavals in which the cattle were grazing. When first fed on ensilage, the cattle suffered from diarrhœa which only lasted a short time, *viz.* 14 to 21 days.

A number of working bullocks were weighed and a statement of weights as taken on 21st April and 30th June 1886 is appended.

Four cows were obtained for experiment, two to be fed on ensilage and two on the same kind of grass made into hay; a table showing weights of cows and calves on different dates is also appended. Observations on the yield of milk show that the yield of the two cows fed on ensilage increased at the end of one month about 80 per cent and at the end of the second month to nearly 200 per cent, at the same time the cows and calves improved in condition, while the yield of milk from the cows fed on dry grass became gradually less and at the end of two months was about 30 per cent worse than at the commencement of the experiment.

The cost per ton of ensilage is Rs. 1—1—6 which will be reduced next year as a mowing machine has been received for the use of the Depôt.

I append a report from the Chaudri in charge of the cattle fed on ensilage at Kodagihalli.

The warrant officer in charge also noticed the same symptoms in the case of the young ste on ensilage, but he attributed it to their previous weakly condition as the silo at other not produce similar effects on strong and healthy cattle and the steers were not affected few days.

This is the first instance, I have heard of, in which the use of ensilage has produc effects.

The description given to me verbally was that the cattle after eating the fodder l peared very dull and disinclined to move and if made to get up seemed for some little unsteady on their legs, this however soon passed off and no bad effects followed.